

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
January 8, 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There will be no residential garbage pickup on Monday, January 18, 2016, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the City Commission Meeting has been rescheduled for January 25, 2016.

Dates to Remember

January 18, 2016 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – City offices will be closed.
January 21, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
January 21, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
January 25, 2016 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- We have received plans for another Single Family Residence at 1005 Bayberry Loop. It is a 3 bedroom/2 bath home with 2,264 sq. ft.;
- The Marathon station at 642 East Sugarland Hwy. has upgraded and reopened after being closed for approximately 2 months. The upgrades include new tanks and angled pump dispensers making for a better traffic flow;
- Permitting has surged during the last 3 months! We have processed approximately 70% more permits in the first quarter of 2016 than in the prior 4 quarters. This includes five (5) new single family homes with the potential of three (3) more by the end of January. There are also four (4) new commercial projects going on and the 50 unit Greentree West project on West Ventura Avenue.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news by signing up on Constant Contact. Go to the golf link on the City of Clewiston website and sign up on Constant Contact. You will be automatically put on the golf course e-mail.

- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Season is here. We suggest making tee times here at the golf course.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Last year's contract was fulfilled and an extension for another year was granted. Traps were set Monday night and only one of the three caught mosquitoes. The Okeechobee Blvd. trap delivered 150 mosquitoes.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff removed dead palms on 27, Boat Basin Parking lot and on Berner Road. (2) Pot holes were run and shoulders repaired at select locations. (3) Bull Noses on Central and Ventura Ave were painted yellow. (4) New street markers and signage were installed on Central Ave. (5) Staff is taking down Christmas decorations and putting them away for another year.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) New landscape timbers were installed, replacing rotted timbers, around one of the planted areas. (2) The "NEW ARCH" at the east entrance was installed. The arched fence rails that go between the bollards are scheduled to be installed first of the year. (3) Broken sidewalk is scheduled to be replaced at select locations. (4) Boulders donated by US Sugar were picked up this week and will be used to develop a Fern & Bromeliad garden.
- Facility Maintenance: (1) The screen porch roof and gutters on the Sikes Park building were cleaned. (2) Several bathroom fixtures at the Golf Course had to be rebuilt after a water break allowed sand and grit to get into the valves.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- The New Year has started no different than 2015 ended. Officers responded to a death on Monday, and another Tuesday. Both were due to natural causes.
- Retail Theft remains high. Few of the offenders are actually City of Clewiston residents. The vast majority are from Glades, Palm Beach, and unincorporated Hendry County.
- Animal Control participated in two search warrants last week. The first was an assist to Hendry County's Agriculture Unit to take down a cockfighting ring. In all, 48 people were arrested and 83 birds were confiscated. A separate search warrant was based on a 7 month long investigation conducted by Clewiston Animal Control. A suspect was arrested for hoarding and cruelty to animals. Twelve dogs were seized and rescued in that case. Both incidents occurred in unincorporated Hendry County.
- We are experiencing an alarming number of vehicles being shot at with BB guns overnight. Please keep your eyes and ears open for this. It is a very expensive and dangerous activity. We ask you report any knowledge or suspicion of this.
- With three major fishing tournaments looming next month, we have begun creating operational plans. February will be a huge month for the industry and we expect the largest crowds we've ever seen for these tournaments.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:

1198	Commercial / Residential Security Checks
646	Complaints Investigated
30	Traffic Citations Issued
19	Arrests Made
4	City Ordinance / Code Violations
8	Rental Inspections
69	Merchant Escorts
17	Alarms Responded to
1	Traffic Accident Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers, posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware of the following:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.

- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for these items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.